Math Reflection

In math class this year we used a program called Connected Math 2. This is a very different math program than usual things because of many reasons. First the program has homework for every night to reinforce the lessons we have learned specifically tailored to us. Second, the math program has different lessons that are related to the actual world instead of just making things up. Finally, the program also has information about things related to the outer world such as the world’s longest prime number or numbers like pi that may be used in formulas.

Connected Math 2 has 8 student units which 5 of them has been worked on this year for us. These units are Covering and Surrounding, Prime Time, Bits and Pieces, Bits and Pieces 2, and How likely Is It. We are working on How likely Is It right now. We have made strategies for solving problems and have explored different concepts of the unit by solving problems either in class or for homework in the book where it does not have any completed examples for us.

Each and every unit opens with the lesson asking us questions that we will later find out the answer for. These questions give us hints about how the lesson will look like and what we will learn. These questions show just a small smidge of what we will talk about in the future. We then go into the lesson and learn about what the question has been showing us and later solve this question with the skills we have learned from the lesson. These questions are either solved in class or set for homework in our A.C.E. section of the book.

Next, from the book are highlights of the lesson that are sent home. These contain things that we will learn and will soon discover later in the book. The book that I chose was Prime Time which meant that the highlights would include something relating to factors and or multiples. As an excerpt from the book I found that it said we will learn how to “Understand relationships among factors, multiples, divisors, and products.” We will also learn how to “Use factors and multiples to solve problems and to explain some numerical facts of everyday life.”

After the highlights we explore things called Investigations. These Investigations have problems in them that contain things that we will use to solve the homework that will later be assigned. These Investigations range from playing a game with a concept connected to it to solving problems plainly. We take the knowledge that we get from the investigations to solve A.C.E. problems that use our newly earned knowledge and our beforehand knowledge to solve it. In this way certain ideas are reinforced and they are the things reviewed throughout the entire unit.

After the investigations (Yes, I know this sounds like a very long process) we are usually assigned ACE homework to do. ACE stands for Applications, Connections, and Extensions. In the first section we apply the things we have learned from the investigations to the problems to help solve them. In the second section we connect the problems to real world problems that can be solved with your knowledge such as something like a recycling problem that requires that you find out the cost of it being used. In this way the problem seems more realistic than a made up problem. In the third and last section we extend our knowledge from previous problems. We may do something that has the problem of a previous investigation but further explores what the actual algorithm or equation is used for a problem like this.

In every unit there is vocabulary. This vocabulary is supposed to be recorded in our notebook which we carry around in Math. This notebook has been used since 5th Grade which means that we obviously have a lot of vocabulary stored in there. We record the vocabulary from the back of the book unless it is already in the book. In this way we are able to keep a lengthy record of what words we have learned and how they relate to our present and future problems.

I chose to write about this unit because I like working with multiplication. I also like working with factors, multiples, and products. I thought that I should do a reflection on this unit because it was our first book in the series. Prime Time was also fun because of the fact that it was very easy since most of the stuff was review from last year like any other unit. All of these things show why I chose to write about this unit and why I believe I should base my reflection on this unit.

Here is a picture of my unit:

